

REMARKS

Claims 1-76, 78 and 80-94 were pending in the application. Claims 24-27, 36-39, 51-59, 63-68 and 80-92 were withdrawn. Claims 20, 21, 40-50 and 90 were allowed.

With this Amendment, claims 1, 15-19, 22, 23, 28, 29, 32-35, 60-62, 69, 72 and 75 are presented for amendment and claims 24-27, 30-31, 36-39, 51-59, 63-68, 78, 80-93 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 95-100 are new dependent claims presented for consideration.

As such, claims 1-23, 28, 29, 32-35, 40-50, 60-62, 69-76 and 94-100 are presented for consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office action identified claims 20-21, 40-50 and 94 as being allowed. Applicant appreciates such allowance.

CANCELED CLAIMS

As noted above, claims 24-27, 30-31, 36-39, 51-59, 63-68, 77-93 have been canceled without prejudice in this current patent application. Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of one or more of these claims by filing a divisional or continuation application.

AMENDED CLAIMS

As noted above, claims 1, 15-19, 22, 23, 28, 29, 32-35, 60-62, 69, 72 and 75 have been amended by this Amendment. Each of these claims has been amended to depend from an allowed claim.

Claims 1, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 28, 32-35, 61, 69, 72, and 75 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 20. As such, claims 1-19, 22, 23, 28, 29, 32-35, 61, 69-76 and 94-100 are also allowable at least due to their dependency from an allowable claim.

Claims 60 and 62 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 40. As such, claims 60 and 62 are also allowable at least due to their dependency from an allowable claim.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 10-12, 19, 28, 29, 60-61, 69, 73, 74, 76-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by King (U.S. Pat. No. 6,216,723). Each of these claims

has been amended to depend from an allowable claim. As such, these rejections should be withdrawn and the claims placed in allowance.

Claims 32, 34-35, 40 and 43-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lord (U.S. Pat. No. 105,818).

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that claims 40 and 43-44 are identified in the Office action as being allowed and as being rejected. Upon review, it appears to Applicant that the rejections hereunder were based on the prior Office action dated 2/6/06 and did not recognize the claim amendments made in the Amendment in response to that Office action. As such, Applicant has assumed that claims 40 and 43-44 are allowed as indicated in the current Office action and not rejected.

With regard to rejected claims 32 and 34-35, each of these rejected claims has been amended as noted above to depend from an allowable claim. As such, the rejections to these claims should be withdrawn and the claims placed in allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3, 8-9, 13-18, 22-23 and 70-71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King. Claims 33 and 41-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lord. Claims 40, 45-48 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Lord.

As noted above with regard to the 102(b) rejections, claims 40-42, 45-48, and 50 are identified as being rejected here and allowed later in the same Office action. Upon review, it appears to Applicant that rejection hereunder was based on the prior Office action dated 2/6/06 and did not recognize the claim amendments made in the Amendment in response to that Office action. As such, Applicant has assumed that claims 40, 45-48 and 50 are allowed as indicated in the current Office action and not rejected.

With regard to rejected claims 3, 8-9, 13-18, 22-23, 33, and 70-71, each of these rejected claims have been amended as noted above to depend from an allowable claim. As such, the rejections to these claims should be withdrawn and the claims placed in allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 95-100 are new. Each of these claims depends from allowed claim 40 and recites features recited in prior claims. These claims are each allowable, at least due to their dependency from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

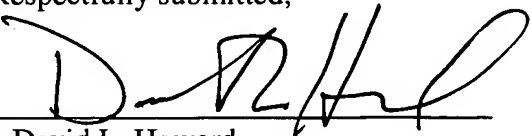
Applicant believes that they do not owe any fee in connection with this filing. If, however, Applicant does owe any such fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Dated: _____

6/28/06

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____



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